

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00951 230840Z

11

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 SSO-00 /033 W

----- 085298

O 230827Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6362

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 951

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT

REF: DAMASCUS 941

1. PRESENCE OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE MOHAMED IMADI IN DAMASCUS DURING SECRETARY SIMON'S MARCH 3 VISIT WOULD IMMEASURABLY ENHANCE IMPACT OF SECRETARY'S STOPOVER. AS ONLY US GRADUATE ECONOMIST IN SYRIAN CABINET, AND ONLY ECONOMIST AT SENIOR LEVEL IN SARG CONVERSANT WITH SOLID BACKGROUND IN ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE, HE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INVALUABLE AS PARTICIPANT IN MEETING WITH DEPPRIMIN HAYDAR.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, IMADI HAD DELAYED HIS IBRD MEETING IN WASHINGTON TO EARLY MARCH FROM LATE FEBRUARY IN ORDER BE PRESENT FOR SECRETARY'S THEN SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 28 ARRIVAL. WHEN SECRETARY'S OVERALL SCHEDULE SLIPPED, IMADI FELT HE COULD NOT ASK HIS IBRD COLLEAGUES AGAIN TO CHANGE THEIR PROGRAM.

3. WHEN AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED SIMON TRIP WITH IMADI IN FEB 21 MEETING, IMADI REITERATED HIS DESIRE BE PRESENT AND ASKED IF WE COULD GET WORD TO IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA TO SEE IF IMADI'S ITALIAN AND FILIPINO COLLEAGUES COULD DELAY THEIR TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON.

4. MEETING IN QUESTION IS THAT OF REIMBURSEMENT SUB-  
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COMMITTEE NOW SCHEDULED CONVENE MARCH 4. MEETING WOULD

HAVE TO BE DELAYED UNTIL LATE MARCH.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

THAT EITHER STATE OR TREASURY CONTACT MCNAMARA ASAP  
TO REQUEST, ON IMADI'S BEHALF, THAT THIS COMMITTEE SESSION  
BE POSTPONED UNTIL LATE MARCH. ADVISE IMMEDIATE.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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